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The 2022 MLB Lockout
Cleary '24 breaks down the facts and implications of the lockout. **page 11**

The Spectator

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Volume LXIII
Number XIX

Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

Professors determine in-class mask mandates

by Deanna Durben '25
NEWS EDITOR

Effective Thursday, March 3, the College has further relaxed campus mask requirements. "Masks are still required in classes, labs or studios while class is in session, unless the instructor specifies that masks are not necessary," stated an email from the COVID-19 Task Force on Tuesday, March 1. According to Karen Leach, Chair of the Task Force, professors can freely lift the mask requirement in their classes, but should explicitly announce that decision in advance.

Unmasking is now the default for all spaces except those outlined in the all-campus email, namely when inside the Testing Center, Health Center, Athletics Training Center and at large gatherings if requested by the organizers. Other small changes are easy to miss. Previously, masks were required at indoor events with external audiences, and vaccinated visitors to Hamilton were required to wear masks when in any public area.

Professors' office hours are not subject to classroom mask requirements. Though not required, any faculty or staff can require visitors to wear a mask in their individual office (but not public spaces). Signs printed with this request can be picked up at the Testing Center.

Likewise, "a student who would like a faculty or staff member to mask when they are in close quarters, such as an office, may ask the other person to do so," says Leach. "I notice too that people are also practicing a new etiquette, asking 'Would you like me to wear a mask?' And I can easily say yes or no. That makes it easier for everyone. In general, if the person you are meeting with is wearing a mask, it's a good idea to assume they would like you to wear one too."

Allowing individual faculty members to decide whether to enforce mask-wearing in classes has garnered a variety of approaches. According to the new CDC COVID-19 Community Level classifications released on Saturday, Feb. 26, Oneida County is now categorized as Low Community Transmission, and masks are no longer strongly recommended for vaccinated individuals. People who are symptomatic, have tested positive or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 should always wear a mask.

However, the seven-day case rate per 100k is still 123 people. This was considered "High Community Transmission" as of four days ago, and still shows up as Red on some areas of the CDC website. These sudden sweeping changes may keep some professors wary of relaxing mask requirements, while others welcome the changes.

Professor Mark Cryer, Chair of the Theatre Department, is thrilled about the change. In class, he has been outspoken about the importance of teaching theatre without masks as soon as it became safe to do so. He stated, "Actors use a variety of tools to communicate, and our faces and facial expressions are part of those tools. A smile, a frown, a slightly upturned lip can speak a paragraph of dialogue and we miss that in masks. Moreover, speaking is made more difficult and articulation and vocal projection require more effort for the actor to be understood clearly."

Others, like Professor Jennifer Borton of the Psychology Department, are choosing to be more cautious. For larger classes like Psychology Statistics and Research Methods, with 40 people packed tightly in a classroom, she believes that the benefits of staying masked outweigh the drawbacks for the time being. There is only a week and a half until spring break begins, where students will travel all over the country and likely be exposed to COVID, so she will re-evaluate her decision a few weeks after break when "rates will ideally be very low again."

Ultimately, Professor Borton hopes to go mask-free, but she wants "to be respectful of students and those who are vulnerable, or have underlying conditions." In the Psychology Department, two professors have a young baby, while many others have children in K-12 schools that have gone maskless. The department is nervous about the possibilities of both bringing COVID into Hamilton and catching it from students. Professor Borton does miss seeing students' faces, and before this semester's stricter mask requirements would in fact teach in a clear mask so students could always see her smile. "Do I hate my mask? Yes," she laughed, "but in light of people with underlying conditions or unvaccinated babies, I'd rather be safe than sorry."

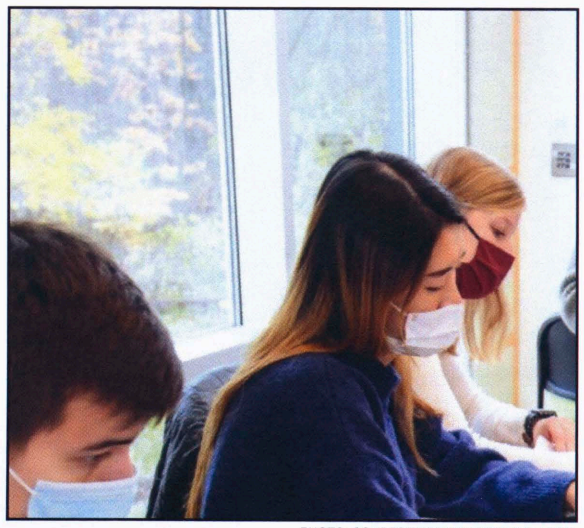

PHOTO COURTSEY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE
Masks are still required in classes, unless the instructor specifies that masks are not necessary.

Professor Peter Cannavò, Chair of the Government Department, is gathering opinions from each of his students before making a decision. "This isn't going to be by majority rule," he said, and the mask requirement will stay in place "if anyone is uncomfortable with going unmasked, even if that's just one student."

Professor Cannavò refused to voice his own personal opinion in class, because "there is a lot of pressure to conform, one way or another, especially with masks," and he does not want to add to it. Instead of starting a public discussion, Professor Cannavò asked students to email him privately or even anonymously with any concerns, then connected the subject back to the Intro to Political Theory class' timely discussion on conformity.

While the College has relaxed mask requirements, professors are still cautiously weighing factors such as student opinions and personal risks of COVID transmission.

Special Interest Housing applications open

by Catherine Vogt '24
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

With the housing lottery just a few months away, it's time for interested students to apply to Special Interest Communities (SICs). SICs allow students to live with other students who share similar interests as a way to foster a community through their housing situation. From the Mindfulness Community to the Video Game Community, there are a plethora of different communities to join — all of which have their own unique experiences.

Each SIC has an advisor and program coordinators. The advisors are Hamilton faculty and staff members not affiliated with residential life, while the program coordinators are students in the SICs. The advisors assist students in planning out goals for their communities in the beginning of the year and the program coordinators plan events to bring their community closer together.

Katie Rockford '24 is the program coordinator for the Interfaith Community. Rockford says that "as the program coordinator for the Interfaith Floor, I am responsible for planning our floor events, keeping in contact with our faculty advisor, Jeff McArn, and updating my floor mates on inter-religious events on campus! I like my role because I get to learn about and plan events on religions I previously did not know as much about! For example, we learned about the religious origins behind Halloween and about St. Maroun's Day, which is a religious holiday based in Lebanon."

SICs also have Residential Advisors (RAs) like any other Hamilton College residence hall. Additionally, Residence Life provides each community a budget based on their size to organize programs. SICs are supposed to have at least one program per month, with the choice of opening up the programs to all Hamilton students to include those not living in a Special Interest Community.

The SICs being offered to upperclassmen for the 2022-2023 academic year are the Woollcott Co-op (a food-focused community where students cook meals for one another), the Video Game Community, the FERN (Friends Enjoying Rocks and Nature) Community, the Mindfulness Community, the Spiritual Living Community and the People Interested in Environmental Sustainability (PIES) Community.

The variety of SICs comes from students starting their own communities. Abby Lowder '25 and her friends started the Spiritual Living Community with the aim of "providing a space for people of all experience levels, from well on their spiritual journey to people just looking to learn more about their horoscopes. [They] are looking forward to fostering a community that shares an interest in spirituality and a desire to learn more!"

Additionally, students who live in SICs have found that their experiences there have been incredibly rewarding. Jenna McCarthy '23 stated that "living in Co-op has changed my Hamilton experience for the better. I have had the opportunity to meet new people and make new friendships that I know will last a lifetime. I have also improved my cooking skills, and I really enjoy making my own food rather than eating at the dining halls."

The residence hall locations of these communities for next year are yet to be decided. Currently, SICs are located around campus in sections of Wertimer, Wallace Johnson, Dunham basement, 100 College Hill Road, Saunders, Babbitt, Root and Woollcott.

Applications for SICs were due Feb. 27, but applications will be accepted past this date; however, there is no guarantee that students will be accepted if they submit their applications late. The application can be found online in the student housing portal. Those who were accepted for SICs last year do not need to reapply. Students will be notified by March 4 whether or not they have been selected for a SIC. Students should direct any questions to Tanith Sherman, Assistant Director of Residential Life, via email at tsherman@hamilton.edu. SICs are a housing option to consider for students who are looking for unique communities on campus.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to respect discretion, *The Spectator* and Campus Safety have not disclosed the idenities of the students involved in these reports.

Thursday, Feb. 24

10:30 a.m. Medical Emergency — McEwen Dining Hall

1:55 p.m. Parking Complaint — Main Quad

Friday, Feb. 25

5:18 p.m. Concern For Welfare — Saunders House

Saturday, Feb. 26

12:28 a.m. Medical Emergency — Dunham Residence Hall

1:14 a.m. Odor of Marijuana — Babbitt Residence Hall

2:12 a.m. Trouble Alarm — North Residence Hall

3:25 p.m. Area Check — Blood Fitness Center

6:45 p.m. Assist — Minor Residence Hall

8:02 p.m. Assist — Commons Dining Facility

10:08 p.m. Medical Emergency — North Residence Hall

Sunday, Feb. 27

12:15 a.m. Medical Emergency — Majmacminor Parking Lot

12:18 a.m. Medical Emergency — Woollcott House (Co-op)

1:00 a.m. Medical Emergency — Griffin Road Apartments

3:56 a.m. Fire Alarm — Morris House

4:04 a.m. Medical Emergency — 100 College Hill Road

Monday, Feb. 28

12:14 a.m. Medical Emergency — Dunham Residence Hall

9:18 a.m. Medical Emergency — Eells House

Tuesday, March 1

4:05 p.m. Assist — Milbank Residence Hall

6:58 p.m. Trouble Alarm — Milbank Residence Hall

7:11 p.m. Parking Complaint — 95 College Hill Road

8:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident — Rogers Estate

Wednesday, March 2

6:07 a.m. Trouble Alarm — Skenandoa Residence Hall

Dear members of the Hamilton Community,

We believe it necessary to use our editorial page this week to address two issues affecting our community: the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine and the recent resignations of multiple faculty members.

On Feb. 24, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Between Feb. 24 and Feb. 28, the United Nations (UN) estimates that 500,000+ refugees fled Ukraine, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) confirmed at least 536 civilian casualties. For those currently unable to leave Ukraine, there are electricity, food, medicine and water shortages, and a lack of shelter and transportation options.

We denounce Russia for this invasion, and we extend our support to fellow community members who have been affected by this invasion, particularly those who have family or friends in Ukraine now. We also condemn those Ukrainian and international news outlets and aid organizations who have discriminated against and persecuted refugees from marginalized communities based on race, gender, sexuality, religion, socioeconomic status, age, ability, citizenship status and more. Especially during a time when refugees are experiencing extreme trauma and displacement, no one should ever be denied basic care and human decency because of their identity.

For those looking for ways to receive and/or provide support, we recommend attending the "Candles for Ukraine" vigil on Thursday, March 3 at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel, which has been organized by the Hamilton College Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA). There will be student and faculty speakers, candle lighting and donation opportunities.

On a different note, this week, *The Spectator* was going to publish a news article about the relationship between recent faculty resignations and the recruitment, retention and treatment of BIPOC faculty at Hamilton College. However, after conducting initial interviews and research, we came to the conclusion that this topic needs a more extensive investigation before we publish an article on it.

Despite the piece's postponement, we would still like to leave readers with some thoughts, and an invitation. In their Final Report published on Dec. 31, 2020, Esquilin Consulting for Equity & Inclusion concluded that at Hamilton College, "power dynamics related to tenure and rank within academia, coupled with inequities along race, gender, sexuality, class, and citizenship status', create structural, interpersonal, and departmental challenges which express themselves in various ways. According to participants, the result is often a higher turnover rate among BIPOC faculty, and limited numbers occupying tenure track positions" (Esquilin, 14).

It is now 2022, and not only has our initial research and interviews revealed that these dynamics still exist, but some faculty cite the consequences of these dynamics as one of (if not the primary) reasons for their resignation. Those in powerful positions at the College are obligated to ensure that all community members, especially those that represent marginalized identities, are listened to, validated and supported when they experience discrimination, harassment and abuse, and that resources are going towards preventing these experiences from happening in the future. This responsibility is especially important in the context of small, liberal arts PWIs like Hamilton, where BIPOC students, faculty and staff represent a much smaller proportion of the campus in comparison to the white population. When there is qualitative and quantitative data demonstrating and suggesting that the College does not meet these commitments, then organizations like *The Spectator* have a responsibility to pursue accountability and the beginnings of justice through meticulous and thoughtful reporting.

Finally, we encourage students to attend student group Our Hamilton's "Let's talk about the letter" this Friday, March 4 at 5:00 p.m. on the first floor of Burke Library. At the event, students will "unpack and discuss [Assistant Professor of Anthropology Mariam] Durrani's resignation letter and 2021 *American Anthropologist* article titled "Digital Infrastructures of the Internet Outrage Machine: An Autoethnography of Targeted Faculty Harassment" (Our Hamilton). Our Hamilton's goals for the event "are to start conversations to better understand the campus climate and white supremacy at Hamilton and to show our support for marginalized groups of students, faculty and staff" (Our Hamilton).

Sincerely,

Emma Mae and Eric

The Spectator

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The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

Hamilton Horoscopes

by Nicholas Cackett '24
Guest Star Astrologist

This Wednesday, there is a new moon in Pisces, offering brand new chances for our readers to begin again! Look towards our horoscopes to take stock of what you have to look forward to this week.

Jan. 20-Feb. 18: Aquarius
February 19-March 20: Pisces
March 21-April 19: Aries
April 20-May 20: Taurus
May 21-June 20: Gemini
June 21-July 22: Cancer
July 23-August 22: Leo
August 23-Sept. 22: Virgo
Sept. 23-Oct. 22: Libra
Oct.23-Nov. 21: Scorpio
Nov. 22-Dec. 21: Sagittarius
Dec. 22-Jan. 19: Capricorn

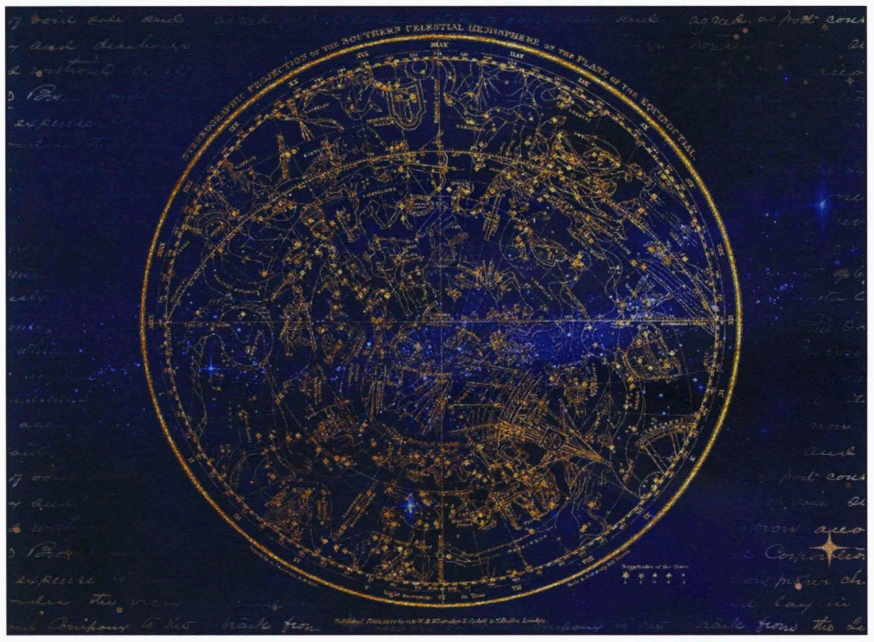
Pisces
Sometimes it is your month, sometimes it is not. This month is certainly not it for you. Drink some coffee and take a shower. Just remember, this usually means there is some great change coming to your life, or not, but hopefully. Keep shining regardless and it will all be fine. You might feel like you are a popular loner right now, but you are actually just one of those. Something great will happen to you during spring break so be ready for that!

Aries
I think we both know it is time for you to drop that specific Scorpio friend; they are not good for you. You know who I am talking about. Go on Jodel and meet new people. Maybe that daily joke guy? I do not know, you should probably figure that out. I would recommend rewatching your favorite show until you do. Feel free to reach out to people (not me). It will make midterm week much better.

Taurus
Hey, you little Rockstar, you are crushing it! Realign your chakras and follow your dreams. Oh, and do not worry, you are getting an A on that midterm this week. You really are the cream of the crop. Just work towards being humble. Also, remember to text people back because you are really bad at that and they will not appreciate it.

Gemini
Allow yourself to get some rest and reward yourself with Fojo, or do not, but that would be kind of boring if you do not. More importantly, stay away from sharp objects and do not run with scissors. If you ignore this warning, make sure the point is facing the floor. If you are still on the fence about something, do it. It will make the semester more interesting for everyone involved.

Cancer
Take a deep breath and call someone important in your life. If they do not answer quickly, it might be time to cut them off. Look for someone new to replace them. It is a matter of pride at this point. Maybe become friends with an Aries, they just got rid of their Scorpio friend, creating an opening for you. Above all, keep a level head and stay sensible but act out at times.



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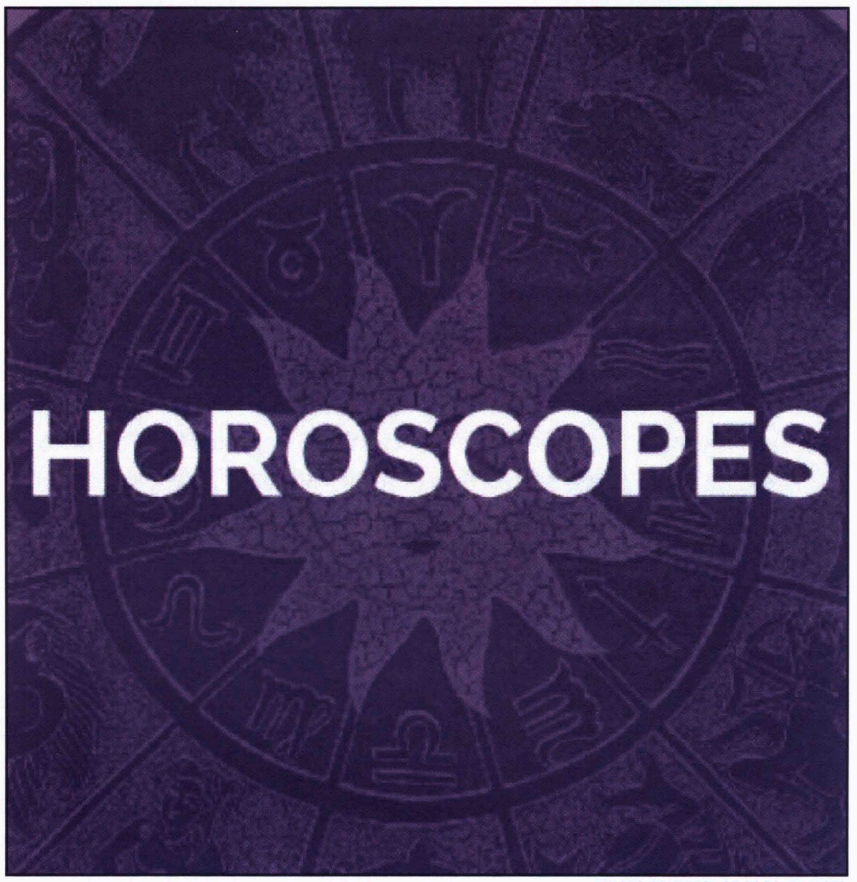

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Leo
Blast your favorite songs in the morning and share the joy by making sure your neighbors can hear it too. If they cannot, turn the volume up. Good vibrations coming your way, maybe an angry RA or two as well. Extra points if its "Mr. Brightside" or "The Spins" on repeat. Overshare as much as you want, you can deal with the consequences some other week.

Virgo
It is completely okay to feel sensitive sometimes. This is not one of those times. So, stop it. Read some Seneca or Aurelius or something. Also, make sure to look out for falling objects, you never know. Keep an eye on the sky. Move tactically at all times. You should probably minor in classical languages. All the cool kids do.

Libra
You are on a bit of a character arc at the moment. Is it your villain era? Your hero era? Maybe it is a little of both? Who knows, but it will be an interesting ride either way. At least for everyone watching you. If you come across a Pisces, give them some love, it is a tough month for them. Try to meet some new people so they can become side-characters in your life.

Scorpio
You might be dropped as a friend by an Aries you know, but just remember it is not your fault, they just do not appreciate the finer things in life the same way you do. Befriend some other Scorpios or branch out and link up with a Taurus. Oh, and that person you have been pining for might say yes or no, but probably no.

Sagittarius
You know that person who you are "just friends with?" Well, guess what? They like you, so do something about it, or do not, I do not care. Looking out for my reader's interests I deal in harsh truths. Invite them to coffee or dinner, they might like it. On the other hand, that blonde person you dated kind of sucks. This new person is much better.

Capricorn
Two words. Black ice. Keep your head on a swivel and your feet on the ground. This is a metaphor. Apply it to everything you do in the next week. You will get injured either way but maybe you will not. You should probably get ready for some unpredictable times ahead, though this does not mean it will be bad. Then again, it could. Good luck!

Aquarius
There are a lot of things in your life that will make you confused, including this. You will be in a really awkward situation this week that will probably keep you up on some random Tuesday afternoon thinking about it.

The Bachelors

Emmy Goodwin '22

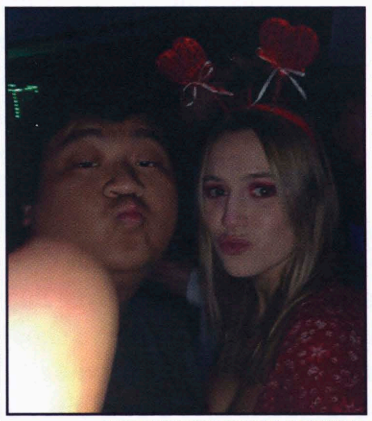

PHOTO COURTSEY OF EMMY GOODWIN '22

Pronouns: She/her/hers.
Hometown: Wilton, CT.
Home on Campus: Babbitt.
Major: Sociology, ES minor
Turn on? Grape Juice Boys.
Turn off? Thin-soled sneakers.
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? Third floor Dunham because it's hot.
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, who would you pick and why? Bruno Mars and Miley Cyrus.
What advertising slogan best describes your life? The quicker picker-upper.
What TV genre best describes you? Sci-fi thriller.
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? Why did you do that when I told you not to.
What's your type? Anything with a pulse.
What are three things you cannot live without? My virtual reality goggles, the Elder Wand and Courtney Connerly.
If you were any social space, what would it be? KJ Atrium, duh.
Where do you go when you want to be alone? I'm never alone at this institution.
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? Special K.
What's your Patronus and why? A panther because I'm outspoken, adventurous, and somewhat risky with a splash of both confidence and humility.
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? Scaling the chapel.
What would you give a thumbs down? Unitards.
Who would you say is your campus crush? Joseph Han.
Who would you say is your faculty crush? Erica Gerimia-Mathers.
What would your perfect date be? Me, you and a bottle of Whispering Angel.
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? A hand-knit plague doctor stuffed animal.
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? Sitting alone at a square table in commons.
If you were a food, which would you be and why? Gouda because I get better with age.
Lights on or lights off? Dimmed.
Favorite campus study spot? David Wippman's House.
What's the last lie you told? I love you, brother.
What was your first thought this morning? I need a room full of mirrors so I can be surrounded by winners.
What's the meaning of life? noun, plural lives [lahyvz]. The condition that distinguishes organisms from inorganic objects and dead organisms, being manifested by growth through metabolism, reproduction and the power of adaptation to environment through changes originating internally.

Joseph Han '22

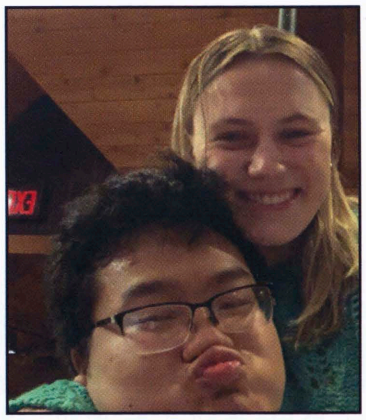

PHOTO COURTSEY OF JOSEPH HAN '22

Pronouns: He/Him/His.
Hometown: New York, NY.
Home on Campus: Third Floor Dunham.
Major: History.
Turn on? Thick Thighs save lives: see HS'22 for reference.
Turn off? Kinky Vegetarians.
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? Bundy because while I'm no one's first choice, I do take up an obnoxious amount of space and most sophomores know me for at least a semester.
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, who would you pick and why? Taylor Swift and Meatball.
What advertising slogan best describes your life? Where's the beef?
What TV genre best describes you? The first 10 minutes of a porno.
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? Hey buddy your friend is pretty cute, mind giving me her number? -My Doordash Driver.
What's your type? Medium ugly white men who can mansplain NFTs to me.
What are three things you cannot live without? The thirty pieces of silver I found under a tree, the Communist Manifesto, and Resident Plant Daddy Wriley Nelson.
If you were any social space, what would it be? Dunham 3rd floor because it's never actually popping, it's just five freshman screaming Olivia Rodrigo.
Where do you go when you want to be alone? Bundy 201, it is hard to find another place that has seen less women.
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? The Sisters of Gamma, only so that I could inform people that our second letter is Xi. We are the Sisters of Gamma Xi.
What would you give a thumbs up? KJ Atrium.
What would you give a thumbs down? People who actually do work in KJ Atrium.
Who would you say is your campus crush? Eleanor Elizabeth Whelan, she's just so cool.
Who would you say is your faculty crush? Either Professor Trivedi or that really smart former alumni philosophy professor with great cheekbones.
What would your perfect date be? A bachelor/bachelorette style round robin because I'm better by comparison.
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? A ripped up Taylor Swift poster I have been trying to revive through alchemy.
If you were a food, which would you be and why? The chips in the KJ vending machine because I am a mixed bag.
Lights on or lights off? Lights off.
What historical figure are you attracted to and why? Pontius Pilate because we stan men with good personal hygiene.

March 3, 2022

Putin's war to cement his legacy

by Patrick Cleary '24
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

Why do we go to war? Sometimes national glory is the aim, and sometimes resources can spark it (or perhaps, I would argue, the CEO of a defense contractor just wants a new yacht). For Vladimir Putin, however, this war in Ukraine is about something different: legacy. Putin began his career as a KGB agent burning documents as the Berlin Wall fell, and someday, he shall end his career after decades as the most powerful man in Russia.

At least, this is the picture he wants us to see, and it explains why he stages photo shoots of him hunting or riding horses shirtless. To us in the West, the spectacle is funny and meme-worthy, something to ridicule on social media, but for Putin, it is an opportunity to project strength. Putin has been able to maintain power not only by having armies of hackers and securing the loyalty of oligarchs, but also by projecting the image of a strong leader who 'gets things done,' in contrast to the bickering democracies found in the West. He furthers this image through photo ops, often derided on the Internet, but additionaly through the utilization of state-controlled media and the Russian national intelligence agency. Putin wields this agency against opposition figures such as Alexei Navalny, an anti-corruption candidate who was poisoned and later arrested by Putin's regime for dissent.

Putin wants many things—a divided West, higher oil prices, a paper-thin opposition—all of which he has managed to achieve in one way or another. What he desires most, however, is a strong Russia in the mold of the former Soviet Union, with borders far from NATO's reach. This is what he wants his legacy to be, and this is why he is now invading Ukraine. The specter of a reunified Soviet Empire has continued to loom over Eastern Europe in recent years, and former Eastern Bloc countries such as Poland and Romania have joined both the European Union and NATO in response, bringing the military alliance's influence closer and closer to Moscow. This threatens the strongman image that Putin tries to project.

Supporters of strongmen like Putin want geopolitics to be like a prison yard—where the biggest guy who can talk the loudest wins—but if anything, this invasion has proved the opposite. These qualities are antithetical to what those of us in the West should look for in a leader. And yet, Putin has found many fans in the United States, especially amongst the American right. In 2017, a Gallup poll found that one out of three Republicans had a favorable view of the Russian president, up from 12% two years prior and triple the favorability of registered Democrats. This year, 62% of registered Republicans called Putin a stronger leader than Joe Biden in a Yahoo News poll.

Former President Donald Trump has praised Putin both while campaigning and during the ongoing Ukrainian conflict. He called the Russian a "strong leader" on the 2016 campaign trail and has called his recent actions "genius" as a jab at President Biden. He is not alone in this praise. In 2014, former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin called him someone "who wrestles bears and drills for oil" in a Fox News interview. These quotes illustrate the degree to which international markets are receptive to Putin's propaganda, as well as domestic ones. He wants this strongman image to go beyond his own borders and to be used as ammunition by potential allies abroad. This is dangerous.

None of the above statements are direct compliments, and their speakers never deny Mr. Putin's tyrannical actions. Instead, they are arguing for our leaders to be more similar to the Russian autocrat. Vladimir Putin is strong and likes oil, the Democrats are weak and hate oil, ergo Democrats should be more like Putin. This is an unhealthy set of priorities to possess for leaders both domestic and abroad. We shouldn't look to who can have the most alpha leader. This is no war between "woke" leaders and a traditionalist alpha male, it details a desperate, aging tyrant attacking an innocent nation so he can prop up a legacy. The America I know does not celebrate those qualities, and it never should.

Russia has been halted after a few early victories, not just by the guerrilla fighting of the Ukrainian people, but also by a unified West and EU, who have effectively locked Russia out of international trade via heavy sanctions. The ruble is at its lowest value in decades, and while oil prices have skyrocketed since the invasion, Russia cannot sell oil if it has no access to relevant oil markets.

Make no mistake, I too have been inspired by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He is doing what few world leaders would do in this case: standing with his people during an existential crisis. However, that does not mean that those currently fawning over Putin should transfer their affection to Zelenskyy, per se. Instead, we should look to leaders who understand the global landscape and can unite allies against common goals. We're not going to 'out-man' Putin in this war, just like we're not going to 'out-man' climate change or global poverty.

The lesson to be learned here is not that we should not look to our leaders for inspiration or as role models, but instead that we should recognize that the personas they project have symbolic power beyond their images at face-value. When we validate Putin's despotic image, we validate all the corruption, propaganda and human rights violations that he performed to create that image, and we do a disservice to the leaders who do what leaders should do in times of crisis: lead.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW YORKER

Seen walking is Vladimir V. Putin, the president of Russia and the man who has orchestrated the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Additional steps are required to make New York City subways safe

by Allen Cao '24
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

The New York City (NYC) subway has never been a clean and safe place, and recently, it has grown more infamous for being dangerous. New Yorkers and tourists all joke about the poor infrastructure and cleanliness of the subways. There are even multiple social media accounts that document random things one can encounter when riding NYC subways. However, the idea that "you can see the most random thing in NYC subways" loses its humor once you think of the family and friends of the victims of the violent attacks that have grown more frequent in the subway.

Last week, I saw a post by my cousin who lives in NYC. My cousin, who grew up in New Zealand and moved to the city after college, has always been an outgoing and adventurous person. I have hardly ever seen her worried or in fear–whether it was going sailing in the South Pacific or skydiving. However, this time I saw the fearless explorer sharing her fear on social media. She stated "for the first time, I waited outside of the platform until the train drove in. I simply didn't want to take a risk. A risk that could change my life forever." That was a striking post for me to see. Although she said she was ok when I asked her, I saw that the danger of the subway affects her, even if she still goes out everyday.

Eric Adams, the Mayor of New York City, announced a new subway safety plan that aims to address "decades of failures." More specifically, Adams's plan starts with having more cops "enforce transit rules." In contrast, Adrienne Adams, the Speaker of the New York City Council, reiterated that law enforcement should not be "counterproductive by criminalizing people who are in need of housing or treatment." These comments showcase the existing tension between homeless people and Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) rules.

The NYC subway system has been playing a "Keep Away" game for responsibility. The police kick the ball to the MTA, who have no practical enforcing power to regulate behaviors. The MTA fails to enforce the rules, thus kicking the ball to riders and hoping that everyone will follow the rules of the subway. The ball is kicked further as the riders complain and the city sends in more cops as a result. The city then faces criticism for raising the police budget. What a hot mess! The ball circles around and nothing changes because no one truly wants to take responsibility. I would probably have the same thoughts if I were the policy maker. It is harder to take responsibility than to just kick a problem down the road. However, Mayor Adams, who is a former transit police officer, could have some different thoughts. The city cannot hide from the fact that there have been over 320 reported crimes in the first two months of 2022 in NYC subway, compared to 199 in the first two months of 2021.

The MTA acknowledges that many subway incidents are related to the homeless population who are most affected by the new plan. The plan does propose adding more drop-in centers and private beds for those who experience homelessness, but it is questionable that these will be more appealing or well known enough to the homeless than sleeping in subway stations. More attention to mental health, as well as psychiatric support and stability, are also part of the subway safety plan. Mayor Adams promised there will be 30 specialized teams with cops, doctors and other related professionals at high-priority stations in order to make fast responses and to help out those who might be in need.

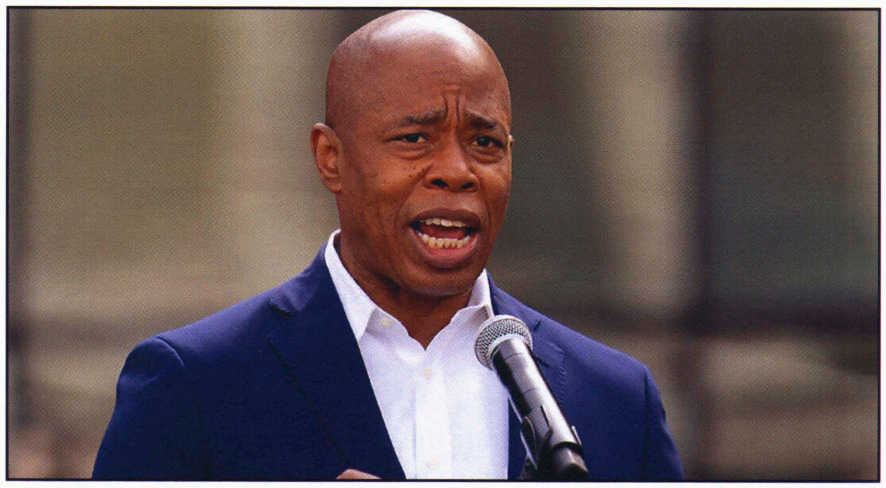

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPECTRUM NEWS

Mayor of New York City Eric Adams speaks at a public function. Adams plans to work with the MTA to address issues on the NYC subways.

I like that the new safety plan tries to address the problems that many politicians have ignored. However, I am hesitant to think the plan will have a long-lasting effect. Firstly, the homeless shelters have not been very successful in providing a stable place to live. In an ideal world, a homeless shelter would provide temporary housing for whoever comes in and help them gain stability. Unfortunately, most homeless shelters are simply a warehouse with beds with the goal of preventing people from freezing to death over cold winter nights and there is little additional assistance. Mayor Adams's plan to relocate the homeless requires many follow-ups that need to be addressed.

Another issue is funding. It certainly will not be from the MTA itself, since it has been losing money for decades. It could partially come from NYPD, which also experienced budget cuts in recent years, or from the taxpayers, who should benefit the most from the new plan. However, taxes went up in 2021, and asking for more money from the taxpayers might be an unpopular move.

It will definitely take time to fully roll out the plan, but the first weekend of it was not great. Six incidents of stabbing were reported, along with several other worrying cases. While some riders reported that they felt the increase in police presence, the effects on the number of homeless in the subway was negligible. For riders on the subway to feel safe, there is still a good distance to cover.

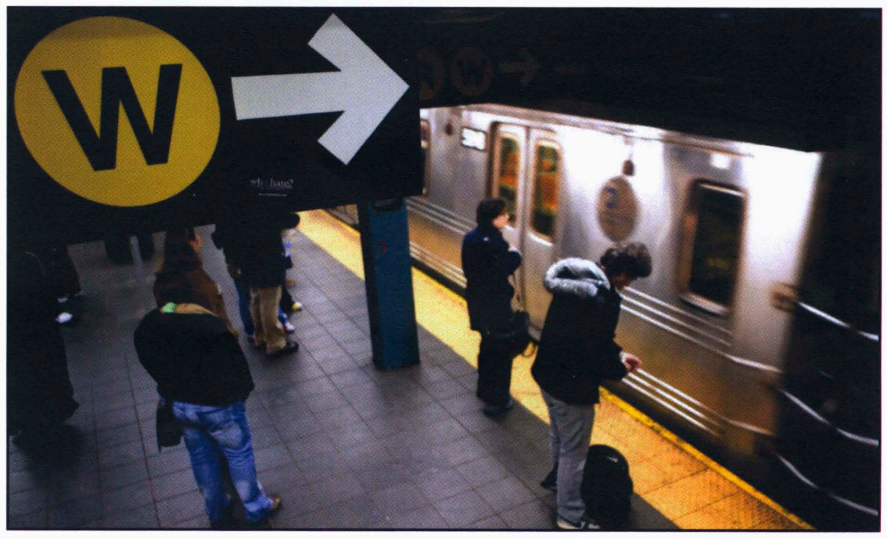

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK MAGAZINE

The W train pulls into a New York City subway station.

Severance: Stiller's take on psychothriller

by Max Bratter '25
STAFF WRITER

The fine line between work life and personal life has always been cherished in American culture. The Ford Motor Company established the nine-to-five workday over a century ago in an effort to draw that distinction. The purpose of having a scheduled time to be committed to labor was to avoid worker exploitation where an employee's line of business interfered with their domestic affairs. In *Severance*, Lumon Industries takes this separation to an extreme degree through literally severing the minds of its employees, effectively creating two separate lives and personalities in the moment that their employees enter the workplace.

Mark (Adam Scott), is our vehicle to understanding this process. Adam Scott, of *Parks and Recreation*'s fame, uses his blunt comedic chops to illustrate the dichotomy that the severance procedure can elicit. Mark's introductory scene sums up the physics of the show's namesake to a basic degree, as we see him sobbing in his car before he enters his workplace and his previous thoughts and emotions dissolve in an instant. Mark displays absolute professionalism and loyalty to Lumon Industries, but is fully aware that there is also a life that he is choosing to forget. Until… enter Helly.

Helly (Britt Lower), serves as Mark's reminder for his "outie" (who he is outside of Lumon). Helly is a freshly-employed Lumon Industries worker who Mark now has to integrate into the company after being named the successor of Petey (Yul Vazquez), his "innie"'s (opposite of "outie") best friend who has mysteriously been removed from a company usually known for making resignation futile. After her integration, Helly cannot recollect anything. She does not know that it is Mark speaking to her from outside the room that she awakens in, she doesn't know her name, or about her parents, but she does know that Delaware is a U.S. state. While comedic in its quirkiness, this Black Mirror-esque style of absurdism further establishes the rules of the severed world. It also fosters the responsibility and natural connection that Mark feels for Helly as she continuously rebels throughout the show, as he feels partly like a contributor to her struggles.

Lumon Industries is led by a board of members who funnel their directions through Harmony Cobel (Patricia Arquette) and Milchick (Tramell Tillman). The company vaguely alludes to a modern Orwellian take on the concept of "Big Brother." Lumon is always aware of their employees' lives both inside and outside of their facilities, and will prevent inter-section contact by any means necessary. This extremely conservative attitude naturally elicits curiosity from Lumon's employees. While employees like Irving (John Turturro) and Dylan (Zach Cherry) have their doubts, they are quick to accept whatever fallacies the company may present them with. At a time, Mark would do the same thing, but a visit from the formerly dismissed Petey stirs up his imagination.

Ben Stiller directs this Apple TV+ series in a similar visual aesthetic to his previous limited series effort, *Escape at Dannemora*. Aside from the obvious fact that Stiller recasts Patricia Arquette for a significant role, *Severance's* blunt and sometimes unintentionally comedic dialogue is in the same vein of his previous production. The show will often present traditional expositional dialogue in a quirky way, similar to Adam Scott's *Parks and Recreations*.

Severance's use of broad shots displays the mental disorientation that the namesake procedure causes for the "innies." In opposition, Mark's "outie" is often cinematographically poised in confinement between walls, people and his general life to express a sense of oppression from the amnesia of his occupation.

The cast can occasionally linger on a one-note delivery style due to the incredibly frank nature of the show's interactions, but its overall comedic quirkiness usually makes up for this. This series is surely a slow-burner. Much of the first two episodes solely provide context and exposition to set a foundation for its future episodes. Nonetheless, its surreal commentary on how far the divergence of one's home and work life can be pushed is valuable. This is especially relevant in our current society, where working from home has become commonplace, effectively erasing that occupational distinction that was so previously apparent.

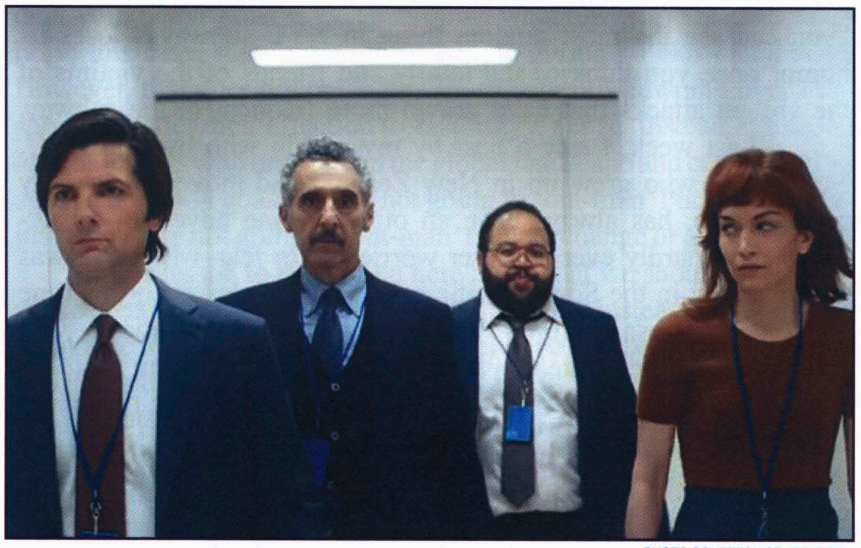

PHOTO COURTESY OF APPLE TV +
Adam Scott (left) as Mark and Britt Lower (right) as Helly.

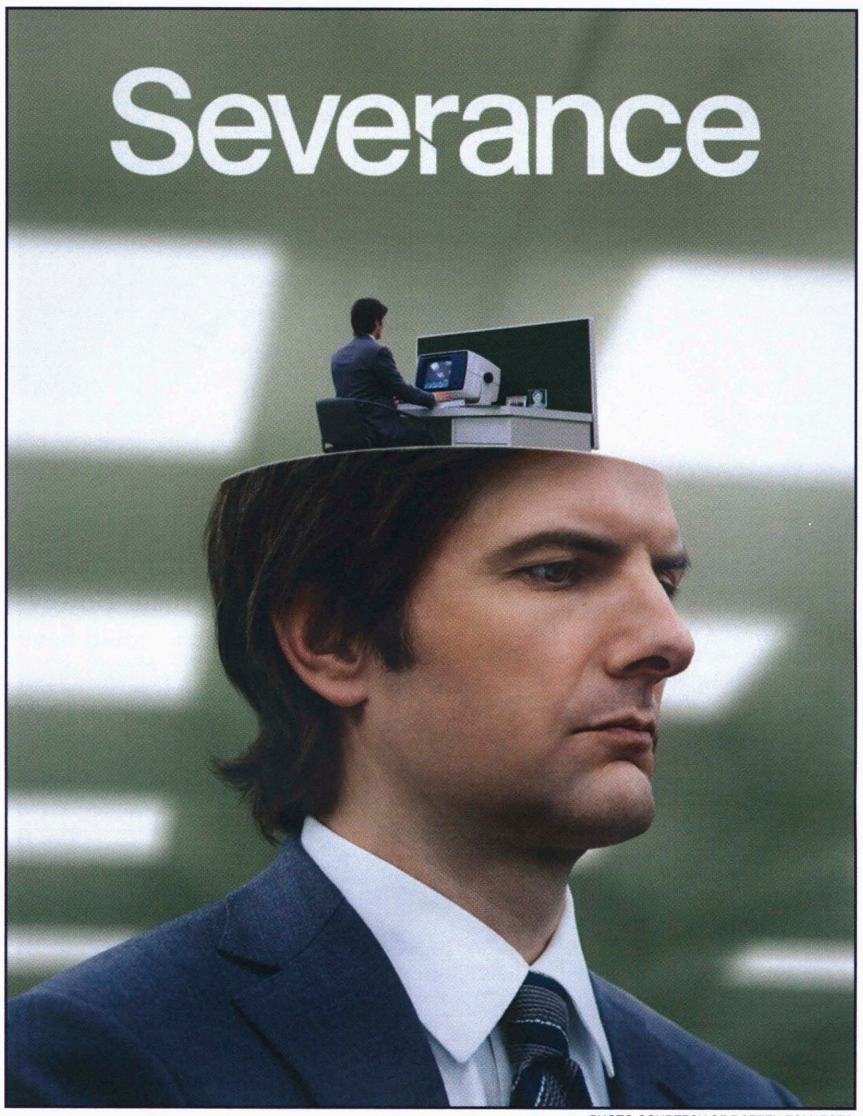

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROTTEN TOMATOES
The show explores the boundaries between work and personal life.

March 3, 2022

Bob the Drag Queen visits Hamilton

by Emma Bowman '24
A&E EDITOR

To wrap up Black History Month, the famous Bob the Drag Queen appeared on campus for a Q&A session co-hosted by Student Activities, the Black & Latinx Student Union, the Gender & Sexuality Union and the Days Massolo Center. Bob is best known for winning season eight of the television show, *RuPaul's Drag Race*, where she won three challenges, including the recurring "Snatch Game," where each contestant impersonates a celebrity in a game show setting. Along with her drag performances, Bob is a comedian, actor, activist, musician, songwriter and co-hosts the podcast "Sibling Rivalry" with her drag sister Monét X Change.

The event began with a short performance, featuring lots of scatting and some dramatic high notes that had the audience laughing and cheering for more. After the music faded out and a plush chair was brought onstage, Bob sat down and began to answer questions. The topics varied from her support of transgender women as drag queens, crazy stories about bar fights, and possibly returning for another season of *RuPaul's Drag Race*.

When asked a question regarding activism, Bob responded with an excellent metaphor that compared the United States to a house. She prompted the audience to imagine a group of people living in a house. If the roof of this house suddenly sprang a leak, the obvious response would be to set up a bucket to catch the water and patch the hole. In this metaphor, the people who jump into action to fix the leak are the activists in the U.S. who fight for change to make their country the best it can be. On the other hand, those who stand aside and offer no help, or shout "well, if you hate this country, you can leave!" actually have less love for the house than those who are putting their time and energy into fixing it. Later on, she referenced this metaphor again to argue that 'Twitter activism' is just as valid as all other activism, because just as some people cannot physically patch a leak in a roof, some activists may not have the means to go to protests, donate money or spread awareness in person.

In the audience was Anna Arzeno '24, who has watched every season of *RuPaul's Drag Race* and had waited weeks for this event. When asked what her favorite part was, she replied, "my favorite question asked in the Q&A section was about the best advice she had for us; she said that we should always take into consideration the source from where we are getting advice. Like, why are we taking dating advice from our single friends? Her blunt and hilarious attitude made the answer 1000x better." Anna also explained that "it was one of my favorite events I have gone to on campus. There were so many hits: the interviewers were funny and friendly; Bob looked beautiful and answered everything while enjoying herself; the crowd was excited, respectful, and engaged; everyone looked really cute and happy. Bob seemed so relaxed that I almost forgot that she is literally a celebrity."

Towards the end of the event, Bob spoke about her gender identity and explained that even though she prefers dressing feminine, she is still nonbinary and that someone's gender identity does not have to match their pronouns or how they express themselves through fashion. She brought up Prince and how he often wore dresses and stereotypically feminine clothing even though he identified fully as a man.

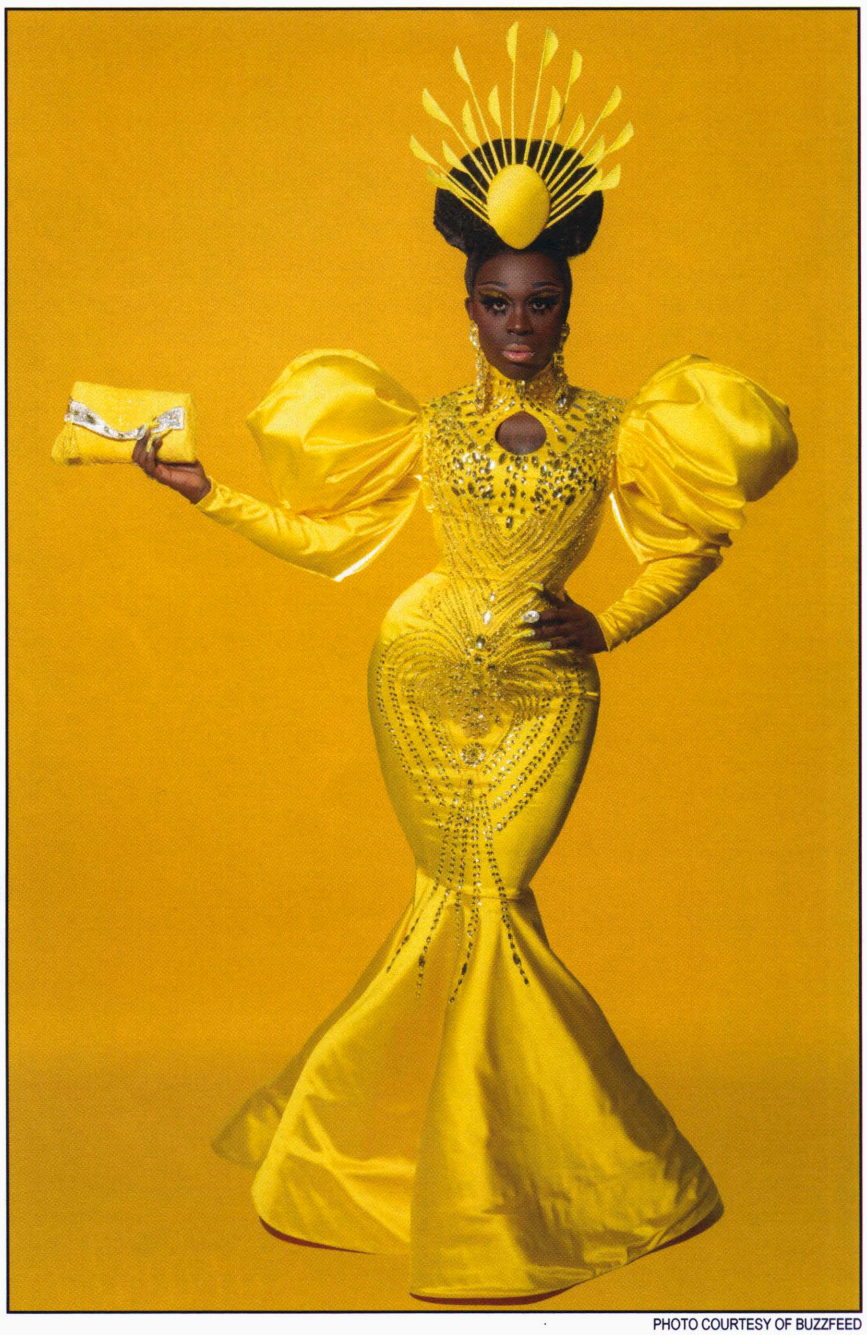

PHOTO COURTESY OF BUZZFEED

Bob the Drag Queen won *RuPaul's Drag Race* Season 8.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ILHAM ARI

Bob impersonated both Uzo Aduba and Carol Channing to win the "Snatch Game" on *RuPaul's Drag Race*.

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ALEX

Hamilton

March 3, 2022

Dilemma in the dugout: the 2022 MLB lockout

by Patrick Cleary '24
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Spring is just around the corner. For sports fans everywhere that means the upcoming March Madness Tournament, speculation about the National Football League (NFL) Draft and Major League Baseball (MLB) ballplayers reporting for Spring Training. Except unlike most years, that last one might be in jeopardy.

Just like in 2020, baseball team owners and the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA) are going down to the eleventh hour to strike a deal on how the season should play out. This deals with several issues ranging from whether there should be a designated hitter across the American and National Leagues to rules over when players can enter free agency. If the two sides are unable to come to a deal, there could be a lockout, and we could see real games get canceled.

Let us first define some terms. At stake here is a lockout where management (the owners) initiates a work stoppage, whereas a strike would be initiated by labor (the players). Examples of a lockout are the 1999 and 2011 National Basketball Association (NBA) lockouts where the owners held up a Collective Bargaining Agreement (the contract both sides sign that defines conditions, salaries and benefits) due to changing landscapes and skyrocketing salaries. An example of a strike occurred in 1994 when MLB players' resistance to a salary cap (a restriction on the total amount teams can spend on player salaries) resulted in a work stoppage that canceled the World Series for the first time since 1904.

Currently, the two sides are arguing about many issues as time ticks away and the chances of a complete season dwindle by the hour. Many of the issues center around competitive balance and salary. As stated before, MLB owners are in favor of a salary cap where all teams in theory would be restricted to spending the same amount of money for a roster. In theory, this would provide for greater parity, as rich teams like the Yankees and Dodgers would not be able to easily outbid smaller market teams like the Kansas City Royals or Oakland Athletics. On the other hand, the players are arguing that this is just a way to prevent players from receiving their just compensation. The players are also looking to increase the minimum salary paid to younger players and those in the minor leagues.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LEBRECHTMEDIA/SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

The ongoing MLB lockout will likely cause a delay to the start of the 2022 season if a deal fails to be reached.

Another issue on the docket is service time. Unlike the NFL, the MLB has several minor league teams called their "farm system" whose primary purpose is to train younger players before they make their way up to the pro squad in the big leagues. When a player is promoted to the bigs, they begin accruing service time, or the amount of time spent on the pro roster during the season. Under the current rules, players can reach free agency (the period where they can sign with whatever team they want and sign for jaw dropping money) after their sixth year of service time. The thing is, players stop acquiring service time if they are on a minor league roster. This means that general managers can keep otherwise pro-ready players in the minors to delay their entrance into free agency. This happened to future All Star third baseman Kris Bryant in 2015 and meant he was still on his smaller rookie deal until this season at age 30. Players argue that this structure damages the game because it means that teams are not motivated to put their best teams on the field in favor of pinching pennies and building for the future. This has led to another phenomenon that is not unique to baseball: tanking.

Tanking is the act of intentionally trying to lose games in order to attain assets like draft picks that will inspire future winning. Tanking can take many forms—intentionally signing worse players, resting veterans or service time manipulation. The Philadelphia 76ers (NBA) initially popularized this trend, and now it has spread to baseball. Because baseball has very few playoff spots (6 guaranteed spots and 4 wildcards, at least for the moment), two-thirds of the league is essentially incentivized to try to lose games as the season progresses. It saves them money and helps them in the future. Unfortunately, this practice also hurts the players and especially the fans that support these teams.

To remedy this, the players have proposed a lottery system for the MLB draft so that the worst team would not be guaranteed to get the best pick. This strategy could work and has been used for decades by the NBA, but the owners have another solution: playoff expansion. MLB owners want a 14 team playoff so that mid-level teams are still working throughout the season to construct a playoff-worthy roster. The MLBPA wants a 12 team playoff, saying that the 14 team playoff is simply a money grab, and therein lies the problem.

The fourteenth best team in baseball is not going to win the World Series, that simply is not a possibility. If they were good enough, they would have won more games over the course of the lengthy regular season. All that playoff expansion accomplishes is the dilution of the product and more money in the pockets of the league's owners from another few games they can sell to TV networks. For evidence, look at the expanded NFL Wildcard Weekend that featured a game on Nickelodeon for the past several years. This focus on money has infected all leagues, but baseball has had it the worst. In 2020, some team owners did not want to restart in fear of losing money over no ticket sales. Imagine that! A sports owner who does not want to games to be played.

This process of the players and owners bickering over service time and salaries is not helping any of the problems at the core of baseball. The games are too long. Young people are less engaged. Preseason NBA games in the fall get more social media buzz than the World Series. If baseball owners keep pinching pennies, they will lose the primary source of all that revenue: their fans.

Intramural Sports hosts Three Point Contest

by Sam Dils '22
SPORTS EDITOR

On Sun. Feb. 27, the Intramural Sports Committee hosted its latest activity, the annual Three Point Competition. The event had an open sign-up for all students. The event took place in the Alumni Gymnasium. In the initial rounds, the field was split into three groups. The format was slightly different than fans of NBA All-Star Weekend might have expected. Instead of shooting a set number of attempts from the corner, the two wings and the top of the key, contestants had one minute to make as many shots as possible; as soon as they connected on one, they would move to the next spot around the arc, giving the contest a fast-paced and exciting atmosphere. After the initial rounds, among those moving onto the finals were Regan Arnold '25, Ben Coffey '23, Daniel Goldstein '24, Waleed Nisar '24, Sean Kondracki '23, Jack McKeon '22 and Jasper Liu '25.

In the final round, the stakes were higher. With the addition of two "money spots," the finalists had the chance to earn double points with successful shots. Otherwise, the same format held for the top sharpshooters. Some of the best performances came in that final round with Nisar and Arnold tying for the top spot with a score of seven points. Of course, the contest could not end there, so participants deemed a tiebreaker to be the best way to settle the score. Arnold stepped up first with one attempt from each of the five spots in a winner-take-all final showdown. He rose to the occasion, hitting an impressive three out of five attempts. Next was Nisar, who had the mighty task of following up that score. And follow it up he did. Like Curry in his prime, he nailed four of out five shots from downtown and secured the championship in a dramatic conclusion.

Event organizers Sean Greaves '22 and Ryan Hunt '23, both members of the Intramural Sports Committee, were delighted with the event. As Greaves said, "The event was electric! Unreal aux, so people were juiced."

Though the early Sunday morning start time led to fewer participants than had originally signed up, those who attended enjoyed the competitive environment and the chance to show off their skills. Greaves is excited about the upcoming opportunities in the intramural realm. Availabile activities for the spring will include basketball, volleyball, soccer, spikeball and cornhole. Greaves also alluded to another fun competition that could be in the works as well: "Be on the lookout for some tube water polo soon." Needless to say, the spring season will offer a vibrant intramural sports scene on campus, with abundant chances for all students to compete in all kinds of different sports.

Upcoming Events Schedule

March 4
Men's Squash @ CSA National Individual Championships, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (through Sunday, Mar. 6)

Women's Squash @ CSA National Individual Championships, Philadelphia, Pa. (through Sunday, Mar. 6)

Men's Track @ AARTFC Indoor Championships, Rochester, NY, 11 a.m.

Women's Track @ AARTFC Indoor Championships, Rochester, NY, 11 a.m.

March 5
Women's Lacrosse vs #19 Amherst, Home, 12 p.m.

Baseball vs Bowdoin, Home, 12:30 p.m.

Men's Lacrosse @ #19 Amherst, Away, 1 p.m.

Women's Hockey @ #1 Middlebury, NESCAC Semifinals, Middlebury, Vermont, 1 p.m. (finals on March 6)

Baseball vs Bowdoin, Home, 3 p.m.

Men's Hockey @ #14 Colby, NESCAC Semifinals, Waterville, Maine, 4:30 p.m. (finals on March 6)

March 8
Men's Lacrosse @ Utica College, Away, 5 p.m.

March 9
Women's Lacrosse vs University of Rochester, Home, 5 p.m.

Opinion: Tennis players speak out against Russian invasion on Ukraine

by Owen Lewis '24
SPORTS EDITOR

Tennis players have been speaking out against Russian Preident Vladimir Putin's military assault on Ukraine. Andrey Rublev, a high-profile Russian tennis player, wrote "no war please" on the camera after his match. The video clip went viral, expanding well beyond the tennis circle. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, also Russian, released a statement saying personal and political ambitions did not warrant a war. She pled for peace. Sergiy Stakhovsky, a retired Ukrainian player, joined his country's reserve army and was quoted as saying, "I pretty much hope that I will not have to use the gun, but if I have to, I'll have to."

Dayana Yastremska of Ukraine posted on social media that she and her sister had fled their home country for France following two nights in an underground parking area. She won her next match by the skin of her teeth, a relatively unimportant first-round match in a relatively umimportant tournament in Lyon, and called it "the hardest match of my life." Daniil Medvedev of Russia has recently ascended to the world number one spot on the men's side. He is the first man to obtain the ranking besides Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic or Andy Murray since Andy Roddick held the honor in early 2004. Yet, Medvedev posted a statement on Instagram calling for peace before he acknowledged his ascent to the #1 ranking. On Feb. 28, Marta Kostyuk, another Ukrainian player, not only called for the Women's Tennis Association to pull their tournaments from Russia, but condemned them for their lack of a response to the war.

Despite the wide range of backgrounds and situations of the tennis players on tour, many are recognizing that peace is the best path forward, and that speaking out is preferable to staying silent. Tennis players have reacted to the war admirably, even though there is considerable risk to the Russian players from disagreeing with Putin. Their willingness to speak out anyway is inspiring, and we should all do so well to follow their example.